

The Romulus News

JANUARY 27, 2000 – FEBRUARY 9, 2000

"the little paper"

VOLUME 13 NUMBER 13

Timely Tidbits ...

Baseball Clinic

Romulus High School's baseball coaching staff will conduct a one-day baseball clinic in the High School gym on Saturday, March 11, from 10 a.m. to noon (grades three to five) and from 1 to 3 p.m. (grades six to eight). The clinic will focus on fundamentals: hitting, pitching, catching, and infield and outfield play. Cost is \$10 per child. Sign up at the Romulus Recreation Center (36515 Bibbins) or call Keith Brothers (734-942-6852) for more information.

Little League Sign-up

Register for Romulus Little League at the Romulus Recreation Center (36515 Bibbins) on Friday, February 4, from 5 to 9 p.m., or Saturday, February 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fee is \$35 per person/\$50 per family; those who do not wish to sell candy may choose to pay an additional fee, instead. To sign up, parents or guardians must bring the child's birth certificate, proof of residence, and the full registration fee. For information, call 734-955-6204.

Adult Ed Registration

Romulus/Van Buren Community Education is now accepting registrations for its winter classes. If you would like to earn your high-school diploma or GED, or if you want to receive nurse-aide or computer training, Community Education has a program for you. Classes may be free if you qualify. Call Sharman (734-941-0610).

Erratum

In the January 13, 2000 issue of *The Romulus News* (Volume 13, Number 12), it was incorrectly reported that Romulus Board of Education Secretary Kenneth Berlin is the district's representative to the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency. In actuality, he is the representative to the Wayne County Association of School Boards, serves as a member of the group's Executive Committee, and is the Chairman of its Nominating Committee. □

Accident Claims Life of Romulus Teen

By Kristi Stephens

On Wednesday, January 19, a tragic accident took the life of Laura Marie Vazquez, a ninth-grade student at Romulus High School.

Preliminary findings in the Romulus Police Department's continuing investigation of the incident indicate that, at 7:45 p.m., the 14-year-old Laura was the lone passenger in a vehicle traveling westbound on Eureka, about a half mile west of Merriman. The driver – a 16-year-old Romulus resident – attempted to pass the westbound vehicle in front of her, but soon realized that she could not safely do so. As she tried to return to her own lane, she lost control of her vehicle on the slippery, snow-covered road, and slid sideways into the path of an eastbound vehicle, driven by its sole occupant, a 36-year-old resident of Taylor. The eastbound vehicle hit the sliding vehicle on its passenger side.

The Romulus Fire Department had to use the JAWS of Life to remove the victims. Both drivers were taken to

Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne, where they were treated for injuries and released.

Executive Lieutenant Eric D. Painter reports that the names of the drivers will not be released until the police investigation has been completed. At that time, the results will be reviewed by the Wayne County Prosecutor's office.

Born in Royal Oak, Michigan, on October 10, 1985, Laura was a happy girl who loved bowling and her ongoing lessons in several styles of dance. She attended kindergarten at Wick Elementary, then transferred to St. Aloysius Catholic School for grades one through eight. When she returned to the public school system to begin her freshman year, she knew very few of her classmates, but quickly made new friends with her vivacious personality. Many of these friends, grieved by her death, expressed their loss in letters and poems, some of which were read at her funeral.

"Laura has always been the type of girl to show love, especially to those

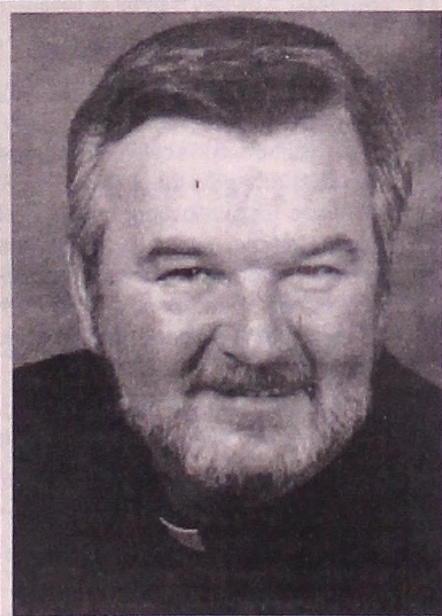


Laura Vazquez

who needed it most. If someone had a problem, she would always try her best to help out," wrote one group of students. "Laura was a loving person and a great friend. . . . We will always remember the good times we shared."

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Priest's Passing Saddens Community



Father Richard Thomson, O.S.C.

By Kristi Stephens

The recent death of Father Richard G. Thomson, O.S.C., has shocked and saddened all who knew him. Although he had been at St. Aloysius Catholic Church for only two and a half years, Father Rick (as he was affectionately known) made a deep impression on his parishioners and his community.

"He was a breath of fresh air," said Father Rick's secretary, Cindy Rhoton. "He accomplished a great deal during his brief time here, and everyone loved him."

Father Rick was also well loved by his large, closely knit family.

"We'll always remember him for his warmth, sense of humor, and demeanor that was so unlike the typical stereotype of a priest," said his cousin, Rob Thomson. "As long as he was in the weekly football pool, we could always count on someone making outlandish picks and never taking our three dollars."

"Although we'll miss him, he left us with enough love and wisdom to make us all better people," he added.

Father Rick was born in Yonkers, New York, on August 13, 1947. He attended St. John and Paul Grade School in Yonkers and Archbishop Stephanic High School in Tarrytown, New York. In 1968, he entered the Religious Order of the Holy Cross, known commonly as the Crosiers. Father Rick took his First Vows in the Crosier Order in 1968 and was ordained to the Priesthood in 1978. His Crosier Priesthood studies were undertaken at St. Francis College in

Fort Wayne, Indiana, and at Catholic Theology Union in Chicago, where he completed his theological studies. Father Rick went on to further his studies at Fordham University in New York and later received a Doctorate with Honors in psychology from the University of Notre Dame in 1988.

Prior to coming to the Archdiocese of Detroit, Father Rick served as Director of Religious Formation in Chappaqua, New York; Associate Pastor of St. Odilia's Parish in Shoreview, Minnesota; Director of Development at the Crosier House of Studies in Fort Wayne; Associate Pastor at St. Clement's in Fort Wayne; Director of Pastoral Care at St. Francis Hospital in LaCrosse, Wisconsin; and Director of Pastoral Care at Borgess Medical Center in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

In 1989, he moved to the Winona Diocese to serve as Special Assistant and Vice Chancellor for Archbishop John Vlazny. While maintaining these positions, he was Pastor of Holy Family Parish in Lake Crystal, Minnesota, and became Pastor of St. Bernard's Parish in Stewartville, Minnesota, in 1994.

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Guest Commentary

Democrats' March 11 Presidential Caucus Open to All; Vote in Person or by Mail

By Mark Brewer, Chair of the Michigan Democratic Party

On March 11, 2000, all voters are welcome to take part in the selection of Michigan's delegates to the Democratic National Convention by participating – either in person or by mail – in our presidential caucus.

Caucuses have been praised as models of grass-roots and retail politics. Democratic presidential caucuses will be held by a total of 12 states throughout the Nation, including Iowa and Michigan. The Michigan Democratic Party modeled its caucus after Iowa to give voters the best option available. And, with voters congregating at the designated local sites, they will have the opportunity to meet federal, state, and local candidates and discuss issues and policies of interest.

The Party's caucuses will be open to all. The only requirement will be a declaration, made on March 11, that the voter is participating as a Democrat. The Democratic National Committee imposes this requirement to ensure that Republicans do not raid the Democratic nominating process and create mischief.

In 2000, our caucuses promise to be among the most inclusive in history. The Party has ensured that as many people as possible from throughout the state will be able to participate on Saturday, March 11. Not only will every county in Michigan have at least one site for voters to attend, but many counties will have numerous locations. These sites will be centrally located and designed to be accessible to all.

The most innovative part of the Michigan Democratic Party's presidential caucus will be a vote-by-mail program that will allow participants who cannot attend the caucus for various reasons to vote for their candidates at

home. Unlike our GOP opponents, who oppose efforts to further facilitate voter registration and participation, we are implementing ways to make voting easier. This is the first time that the Party will attempt such an innovative program to reach out to as many voters as possible, and both of our Presidential candidates have already expressed considerable interest in the vote-by-mail option.

Not only is the Democratic Party process open and more innovative than the GOP process, but the Michigan Republican Party primary, which is a taxpayer-funded, private nominating process, is a winner-take-all format rigged to favor George W. Bush. The Michigan Democratic Party caucus system allows any candidate who collects 15% of the vote in a congressional district or 15% statewide to send Michigan delegates to the National Convention. This demonstrates that the Democratic caucus is more inclusive, and provides greater and more honest representation than is possible under GOP rules.

We are proud of the plan that the Michigan Democratic Party established for the presidential caucus, especially vote-by-mail, and I look forward to a competitive caucus that will give every voter the opportunity to vote for his or her favorite candidate and strengthen the Michigan Democratic Party. We encourage everyone to vote on March 11. If you cannot attend a caucus site, vote by mail. If you have any questions, or would like to participate, please feel free to contact the Party at 517-371-5410, fax us at 517-371-2056, e-mail us at MIDEMPARTY@aol.com, or check our Web site at www.mi-democrats.com.

Mark Brewer can be reached at 517-371-5410. □

Accident Claims Life of Romulus Teen

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Cindy Vazquez, Laura's mother, is another who will always treasure her memories.

"Laura was full of life, and had many hopes and dreams," she said. "Her large, giving heart was there for anyone who needed it. Our lives will never be the same without her smiling face."

"Laura will be in our hearts forever," she continued. "She will be deeply missed by everyone in our family."

Surviving her are her mother, Cindy (Nicholas Curry) Vazquez; her father, Sergio (Terry) Vazquez (Lincoln Park,

MI); six siblings, Nicholas Curry (Romulus, MI), Zachary Curry (Romulus, MI), Shannon Curry (Jacksonville, FL), Victoria Vazquez (Lincoln Park, MI), Sarah Baca (Lincoln Park, MI), and Melissa Howell (Detroit, MI); and her grandparents, William and Cynthia Lingner (Detroit, MI) and Juan and Maria Vazquez (Allen Park, MI).

A funeral mass was held on Saturday, January 22, at St. Aloysius Catholic Church (Romulus, MI), with Father Jim Vedro (St. Joseph Catholic Church, Trenton, MI) officiating. Interment was at Woodmere Cemetery (Detroit, MI). □

Priest's Passing Saddens Community

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In 1997, Father Rick came to the Archdiocese of Detroit to join the Crosier Community of Riverview, Michigan, and to assume the position of Director of Leadership Formation for the Archdiocese. It was also in 1997 that he became Pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in Romulus, Michigan – a position that he maintained until his death on January 19, 2000, at the age of 52.

Surviving Father Rick are his parents, Edson and Alice Thomson (Mamaroneck, NY); two brothers, Ronald (Peggy) Thomson (Yonkers, NY) and Robert Thomson (Mamaroneck, NY); one

niece, Michelle Pashay (Yonkers, NY); two great-nieces, Jessica and Christina Pashay (Yonkers, NY); and a host of aunts, uncles, and cousins. One niece, Dottie Thomson, predeceased him.

A funeral mass was held Monday, January 24, at St. Alfred Catholic Church (Taylor, MI), with Father Jim Vedro (St. Joseph Catholic Church, Trenton, MI) officiating. Interment will be at Mt. Hope Cemetery (Hastings, NY) on Thursday, January 27.

Memorial tributes may be made to the St. Aloysius Building Fund or the Crosier Community, care of St. Aloysius Church. □

The Romulus News

P.O. Box 74038 • Romulus, MI 48174-0038

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Fire Department Aims High



Viewing the Romulus Fire Department's new platform truck against a backdrop of the six-story Romulus Tower apartment building gives a little perspective on the truck's capabilities for high-rise firefighting.

The Romulus Fire Department has significantly improved its ability to fight high-rise fires with the purchase of a 2000 aerial-platform truck.

"This vehicle will respond to all hotel and commercial-building fires within the City of Romulus," explained Romulus Fire Chief David Allison. "In places where green-belt areas surround a building, preventing the truck from parking right next to it, the platform will reach between 60 and 70 feet, in most cases. When there is no obstacle next to the building, a height of up to 100 feet can be reached."

According to Allison, the \$745,000 truck can hold up to four people in its platform, and comes equipped with the following:

- a 2,000-gallon-per-minute pump,
- a self-contained breathing system for the platform,

- dual monitors on the platform,
- an on-board generator,
- an infrared camera,
- a rescue winch, and
- a stokes basket (used for rescues).

"Because this is a new, specialized vehicle, the Fire Department personnel who will be assigned to this unit will be required to go through a three-day training program with the manufacturer - Pierce Corporation of Appleton, Wisconsin - as well as driver training," said Allison. "It is anticipated that the vehicle will be in service by March 1, 2000."

Allison stated that the platform truck will be based in the bay area that was added to Fire Station #2 about a year ago. The station - located at 7221 Middlebelt Road - was chosen because of its proximity to Romulus's hotels.

The new unit replaces a 1976 55-foot ladder truck. □

Kruse Honored with Emeritus Membership in the MSBOA



Dick Kruse

Dick Kruse, the former band director at Romulus Middle School and head of the school district's music department, has been given "emeritus membership" in the Michigan School Board and Orchestra Association (MSBOA). He was honored at the group's mid-winter meeting, held in Ann Arbor on January 22 in conjunction with the Mid-western Music Teachers Conference.

Emeritus membership is granted to former MSBOA members who have distinguished themselves throughout their teaching careers. During his 25 years as the head of the Romulus Community Schools' music department, Kruse maintained a 600-student band program, and his band consistently received first-division ratings at district and state band festivals. His Middle School Symphonic Band received the coveted first-division rating at 20 of 21 state festivals – more than double the number of the next-closest metro-Detroit school over a 20-year period.

Kruse also received a plaque in recognition of his service as "Facilities Committee Coordinator" from 1993 through 1999.

According to Kruse, the committee advises the MSBOA membership about bond issues and music-facility layouts. It often discusses topics such as construction procedures, design specifications, acoustical effects, sound-absorption materials, heating and ventilation problems, and visual supervision of practice and instrument-storage rooms. It also works with architects and construction managers, explaining the concerns of music teachers so that building projects will be more "user-friendly" when completed.

Kruse continues to be in demand as an adjudicator for both solo and ensemble festivals, as well as band festivals, and has contracts to judge at both district and state festivals this year. He is also sought as a clinician by school districts that want to help their students better prepare for the various music festivals. □

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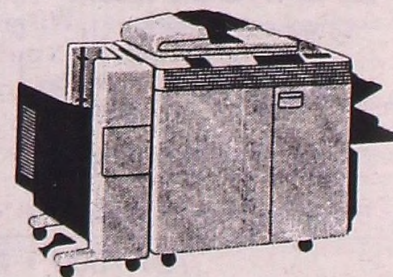
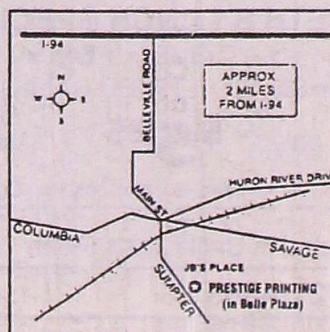
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MEAP Season Is Upon Us



Barth paraprofessional Denise Bills works with third-graders (from left) Brittany Rodgers, Klynn Brooks, Kayla Dizney, and Chelsea Attay to prepare for next year's MEAP.

The annual Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) testing process has already begun for some students in the Romulus Community Schools. According to Wendy Blohm, learning specialist at Cory Elementary, the State-mandated "window" for administering the MEAP began January 24 and will end February 11. At different times during this three-week period, fourth- and seventh-grade students will undergo testing in reading and math, while fifth- and eighth-grade students will be tested in writing, social studies, and science.

One sign of the MEAP test's importance is the State of Michigan's continued efforts to improve student performance by offering financial incentives to those who do well.

"Beginning this year, for example, middle-school students can earn up to \$500 in scholarship money," said district spokesperson Richard Kruse, "and Governor Engler has just proposed fi-

nancial rewards for elementary schools that do well and/or show significant improvement in the number of students who pass the test.

"The State has already implemented a \$2,500 scholarship program for students who score in Level 1 or Level 2 on the four basic parts of the high-school test," he added.

Romulus takes MEAP performance "very seriously," according to the district's Director of Curriculum, Tom Dolan.

"We have worked very hard over the last several years to align our curriculum and improve instruction and learning," he stated.

Also helping to prepare students are various summer-vacation and after-school programs. At Merriman Elementary, for example, fourth-graders stayed after school one hour each Monday through Thursday from November 17 through December 9, and again from January 18 through January 27.

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Barth fifth-grade teacher Mike Blackburn works with (from left) Chris Powell, Alice Mattson, and Anne Marie Martin on MEAP preparation.

Essay Contest Winners Enjoy Lunch with Mayor Oakley



Romulus Middle School's essay-contest winners enjoyed lunch at the Eagles' Nest with Mayor William M. Oakley (back, left).

By C. Hobson

"Choices vs. Chance" was the topic of the annual essay contest which was sponsored by the Mayor's Drug Task Force.

Romulus Mayor William M. Oakley invited contest winners from both the Middle School and the High School to a luncheon at the Eagles' Nest, located in Romulus High School. This prize was also an educational experience for the Middle School students, who were given a tour of the student-run restaurant (operated under the supervision of culinary-arts instructor Charles Usztics).

Congratulations to the following essay-contest winners from Romulus Middle School.

Romulus Middle School

Ms. Hobson's Classes

- Horace Baines
- Jimmy Gervel
- Anjelique Moss
- Antoinette Nelson
- Andrew Vera

Mr. Logan's Classes

- Ashley Allen
- Elyse Hooks
- Candace Lawrence
- Lindsey Moss
- Paulette Stanford

Mr. McCalister's Classes

- Rashad Bingham
- Melissa Smith
- Rebecca Thornton
- Savannah VanKeuren
- Tenisha Williams

Ms. Stanley's Classes

- Natalie Blake
- Elliott Craig
- Melissa Foley
- Roy Hollis
- James White

Ms. Woods' Classes

- Corey King
- Derrick Lewis
- Delores Williams
- Jeremiah Yeager

Congratulations, also, to the following essay-contest winners from Romulus High School.

Romulus High School

Mr. Bayes' Classes

- Davyn Cuffee
- Andrea Deline
- Jordan Goodman
- Antoinette Price
- Kristen Singer

Ms. Harper's Classes

- Autumn DeBus
- Mike McNeil
- Shirlee Parsons
- Leslie Pitts
- Kelli Weimer

Mr. Kahler's Classes

- Matthew Bunch
- Kara Coughlin
- Jerome Gray
- Anson Long

Ms. Kessler's Classes

- Richard Angel
- Theresa Genaw
- Aisha Hubbard

Ms. Schmidt's Classes

- Amanda Brewington
- Clinton Donald
- Bethany Hotchkiss
- Crystal Koch
- Mark Woody

Ms. Singleton's Classes

- Andrea Coate
- D'Aun Dawson
- Brandy Hines
- Naomi Kennedy

Ms. Sterling's Classes

- Dominique Daniels
- Crystal Massey
- Tia Piggee
- Jason Tackett
- Remone Young

Ms. Uhring's Classes

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Community Calendar

- **Handwriting Analysis** – Graphologist Liz Mills will be on hand at Borders Books and Music–Dearborn (5601 Mercury Drive) from 7 to 9 p.m. on Monday, January 31, to analyze your handwriting. For more information, call 313-271-4441.
- **Puppet Art Detroit Puppet Theatre Presents *Episodes from the Book of Ester*** – Borders Books and Music–Dearborn (5601 Mercury Drive) invites you to attend the Puppet Art Detroit Puppet Theatre's presentation of *Episodes from the Book of Ester* (biblical tales). The event is set for Saturday, February 5, at 11 a.m. For more information, call 313-271-4441.
- **Aerobics** – The Romulus Recreation Department (located at 36515 Bibbins in downtown Romulus) is now accepting registrations for its winter aerobics program, which will begin February 7, and continue at the Middle School from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. each Monday and Wednesday for 10 weeks. Cost is \$48 to attend once a week; \$62 for twice-weekly classes. For more information about this or other programs, call the Center: 734-942-6852.
- **Business and Professional Women's Club Seeks New Members** – the Belleville Business and Professional Women's Club – an organization of women helping women – is looking for members from all areas of employment, both full- and part-time. Members come together for regular meetings and special programs to share information, contacts, career strategies, and friendship. The group's next dinner/meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 7, at the Belleville Grille. Cost is \$13.50 per person; reservations are required. For more information, contact Jane Vesche at 734-697-6677.
- **The Mayor's Chair** – The next edition of the monthly *Mayor's Chair* program will air on cable channel 12 beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 10. Special guests for the evening will be Hulen Yates, Ordinance Director for the City of Romulus, and Kim Matthews, Director of Animal Control. Anyone who would like to be present when the program is taped must be seated in the Council Chambers at Romulus City Hall (11111 Wayne Road, at Goddard) by 6:15 p.m. Beginning at 6 p.m., home viewers can ask questions of the Mayor and his guests by calling 734-942-7571.
- **Kids' Craft Program at the Library** – The next in the Romulus Public Library's seasonal craft classes for children in grades kindergarten through five will be held at the Library (11121 South Wayne Road, next to City Hall) on Saturday, February 12, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Although the class is free, preregistration is required. For more information, call 734-942-7589.
- **Silent Auction & Wine Tasting** – The Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce invites you to attend its Silent Auction & Wine Tasting benefit, to be held at the DoubleTree Hotel on Thursday, February 17, from 7 to 10 p.m. A donation of \$25 per person covers a three-course dinner along with the wine tasting. Deadline for registration is January 28. For more information, or for tickets, please call Karan Johnson, the Chamber's Executive Secretary, at 734-326-4290.
- **Youtheatre Offers *Ishangi's Africa*** – Youtheatre's Movin' Up Club (children ages seven and up; no one under five will be admitted to the theater) presentation of *Ishangi's Africa* has been set for Saturday, February 26 (11 a.m. and 2 p.m.), and Sunday, February 27 (2 p.m.), at Music Hall (located at 350 Madison Avenue in Detroit). Individual tickets are \$8 when purchased in advance; \$9 at the door. Group rates, birthday parties, season tickets, and drama workshops are available. Call 313-963-2366.
- **Youtheatre Offers *Amelia Bedelia Goes Camping*** – Youtheatre's Wiggle Club (children ages three to six; no one under three will be admitted to the theater) presentation of *Amelia Bedelia Goes Camping* has been set for Saturday, March 4 (11 a.m. and 2 p.m.), and Sunday, March 5 (2 p.m.), at Music Hall (located at 350 Madison Avenue in Detroit). Individual tickets are \$8 when purchased in advance; \$9 at the door. Group rates, birthday parties, season tickets, and drama workshops are available. For more information, call 313-963-2366.
- **RHS Class of 1970 To Hold 30-year Reunion** – Romulus High School's Class of 1970 is planning to hold its 30-year reunion on Saturday, August 26. For information, contact Gail (Howie) Curaba (734-697-1763), Roy and Cathy (Miank) Szyndlar (734-699-3139), or Jim Wagner (699-9050).

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to us at 941-4874; or call 941-1907 or 941-3113

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Romulus Police, Burger King Offer Student Incentives



Among those working on the new incentive program are (from left) Dee Raub (fourth-grade teacher), John Dolencic (Burger King owner), Karensa Fitch (fourth-grade teacher), and Officer Tom Ellis (Romulus Police Department's liaison to Merriman School).

A new incentive program for Merriman fourth-graders has been developed under the leadership of Officer Tom Ellis, Romulus Police Department's liaison to Merriman Elementary, and John Dolencic, owner of three area Burger King restaurants.

Through the program developed by Dolencic and Ellis, students will be given three cards, each of which will have spaces for the placement of stickers. Beginning February 1, students will earn stickers based on a standard for "excellence in school work, behavior, and attendance" that has been worked out by fourth-grade teachers Karensa Fitch and Dee Raub. Full cards will entitle their owners to free food items at Burger King. Further, students who pass their MEAP exams will receive a completely filled-out set of cards, which will entitle them to a free meal.

Principal Shellie Moore says that Merriman will be the pilot school for the program, and that other elementaries could soon join in.

"This program has been very successful all around the country," said Dolencic. "I'm looking forward to offering it to the Romulus community."

Dolencic's restaurants are in Romulus, Van Buren, and New Boston. □

MEAP Season

continued from page 5

Perhaps the biggest challenge during the MEAP examination period will be faced by students at the Middle School, whose MEAP tests will begin the week after their final exams.

"Parents can really help students prepare for these tests by stressing a seriousness of purpose," said Kruse. "Scheduling a party, an all-night sleep-over, or an evening at the roller rink often leaves a student 'bushed' the next day, and unable to perform to the best of his or her ability. A good breakfast is also important, as studies have shown that nutrition can have a significant impact on student performance." □

HELPING HAND THRIFT SHOP

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- one-pound packages of ground beef • bacon • sausage •

as well as nonperishable food items such as:

- macaroni and cheese • boxed potatoes, pasta, and rice •
- peanut butter and jelly • canned goods of all kinds •

CASH DONATIONS ARE ESPECIALLY WELCOME!

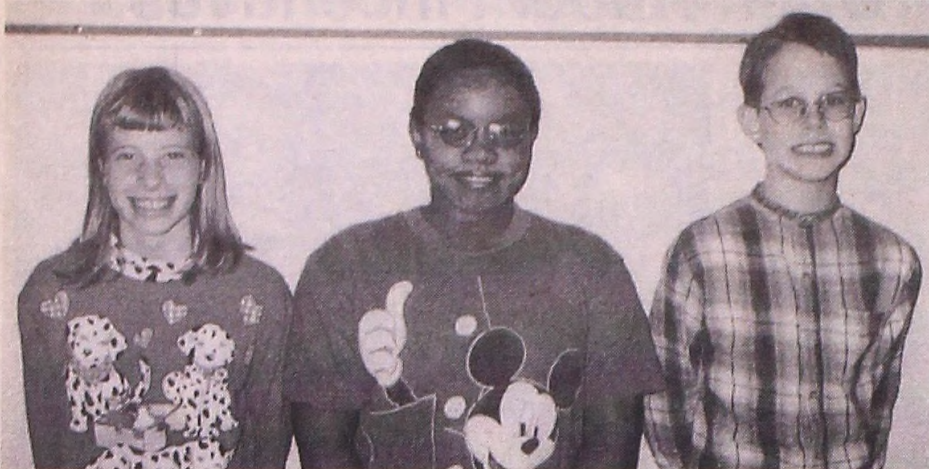
Contributions may be dropped off on:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday • 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cash donations may also be mailed to:

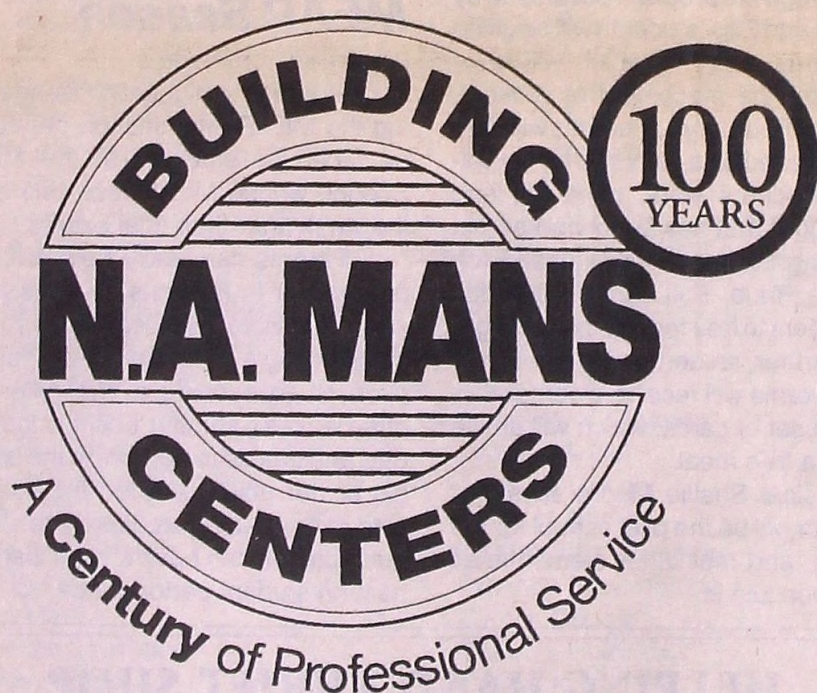
The Helping Hand • P.O. Box 74375 • Romulus, MI 48174

Wick Has Bee-autiful Spellers



Because sixth-grade student Patricia Williams (center) was the winner of Wick School's *Detroit News* Spelling Bee (held December 10, 1999), she will represent her school in a regional competition at Riverview's Memorial Elementary on March 6, 2000. Wick's first runner-up was Jessica Dick (fifth grade); Corey Koch (sixth grade) was the second runner-up.

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Adult/Community Education Classes

Whether your learning interests lean toward the practical or the just plain fun, the Romulus/Van Buren Adult and Community Education program is sure to offer something for you. For further information, please call 734-941-0610.

COMPUTERS/INTERNET

- **Setting Up a Computer**
 Tu, 7 – 9 p.m.
 February 1 – February 22
 Fee: \$20
- **Computers for Seniors I**
 M & W, 7 – 9 p.m.
 February 28 – March 22
 Fee: \$10
- **Computers for Seniors II**
 Tu & Th, 7 – 9 p.m.
 February 24 – March 14
 Fee: \$10
- **Computer Graphics/Desktop Publishing**
 Tu & Th, 6:30 – 9 p.m.
 March 21 – April 13
 Mt. Pleasant School
 Fee: \$40
- **Introduction to the Internet**
 M & W, 7 – 9 p.m.
 January 31 – February 16
 Fee: \$25
- **Introduction to the Internet**
 M & W, 7 – 9 p.m.
 April 3 – April 19
 Fee: \$25

HEALTH & SAFETY

- **CPR**
 Th, 6 – 9 p.m.
 March 16
 Fee: \$15

EXERCISE

- **Tai Chi Chuan**
 M, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.
 February 7 – April 3
 Fee: \$50

DANCE

- **Country Line Dancing/ Beginner**
 M, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
 January 31 – March 13
 Fee: \$20
- **Country Line Dancing/ Beginner**
 M, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
 March 20 – May 1
 Fee: \$20
- **Social-style Dancing/ Beginner**
 Th, 7 – 8 p.m.
 February 3 – March 23
 Fee: \$20 single/\$30 couple
- **Social-style Dancing/ Advanced Beginner**
 Th, 8:15 – 9:15 p.m.
 February 3 – March 23
 Fee: \$20 single/\$30 couple
- **Swing Dancing**
 Th, 7 – 8 p.m.
 March 30 – May 25
 Fee: \$20 single

ONE-DAY CRAFT CLASSES

- **Valentine's Day Tray**
 Tu, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
 February 1
 Fee: \$7 + \$4 for supplies
- **The Carrot Patch Shirt**
 Tu, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
 March 21
 Fee: \$7 + \$2 for supplies
- **Wisps of Wildflowers**
 Tu, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
 April 11
 Fee: \$7 + \$7 for supplies

CRAFTS

- **Mosaic Bird House**
 Th, 6:30 – 9 p.m.
 March 2 – March 16
 Fee: \$25 + supplies (varies)
- **Mosaic Stepping Stones**
 Th, 6:30 – 9 p.m.
 March 30 – April 13
 Fee: \$25 + supplies (varies)

NEEDLEWORK

- **Quilting**
 Tu, 7 – 9 p.m.
 March 21 – May 2
 Fee: \$25

PSYCHIC ADVENTURES

- **Session I (includes "Spend an Evening with a Psychic," "Future Predictions," and "Tracing Past Lives")**
 M, 7 – 9 p.m.
 January 31 – February 14
 Fee: \$35
- **Session II (includes "Spend an Evening with a Psychic," "Talk with Your Angel," and "Gypsy Readings")**
 M, 7 – 9 p.m.
 February 28 – March 13
 Fee: \$35

KENNEL CLUB

- **Puppy Kindergarten**
 M, 7:30 – 8:15 p.m.
 February 14 – April 3
 Barth Elementary School
 Fee: \$25 per dog
- **Dog Obedience/Beginner**
 M, 8:30 – 9:15 p.m.
 February 14 – April 3
 Barth Elementary School
 Fee: \$25 per dog
- **Dog Obedience/Advanced**
 M, 8:30 – 9:15 p.m.
 February 14 – April 3
 Barth Elementary School
 Fee: \$25 per dog

COLLEGE PREPARATION

- **ACT Preparation Workshop**
 W, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
 February 16
 Fee: \$34
- **ACT Preparation Workshop**
 M, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
 March 27
 Fee: \$34

Unless otherwise noted, all classes are at Romulus High School.

SALESPERSONS WANTED

Looking for aggressive, hardworking, honest salespersons for Canton-area location! \$80k-\$100k in commissions (this is a commission-only position). Benefits, awards, car allowance, more. Call Brenda (734-207-3765) or fax your resume (734-207-3987). Only the truly serious need apply. EOE

REWARD FOR LOST CAT

Lost in Romulus area: very friendly gray-and-white, long-haired, one-year-old male cat. Last seen wearing a purple collar with a nametag labeled "Mateek." A reward is offered for his return.

For more information, please call
734-941-9524 or 734-516-7691

ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

36540 Grant Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174

REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 10, 2000

The Regular Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held on Monday, January 10, 2000, was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by President Betty M. Lenossi.

Roll call showed all members present. All administrators were present.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Lenossi.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

1/00/1 Moved by Lambert supported by Webb that the Board approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

1/00/2 Moved by Woods supported by Dick that the Board approve the Minutes of December 13, 1999, as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:**Personnel Actions**

1/00/3 Moved by Lambert supported by McCraight that the Board approve the resolution for Norman McLenon in recognition of his years of service to the Romulus Community Schools. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

1/00/4 Moved by Lambert supported by McCraight that the Board approve the resolution for Jesse Rowe, Jr., in recognition of his years of service to the Romulus Community Schools. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

1/00/5 Moved by Webb supported by Lambert that the Board accept the retirement of Genevieve Dugan, Secretary to the Assistant Principal, Romulus High School, effective December 31, 1999. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Personnel Items of Information - No Motion Needed

EMPLOYMENT: Tamatha McGrane, Paraprofessional, Barth Elementary School, Effective January 3, 2000; Kathy Rice, Kindergarten Aide, Merriman Elementary School, Effective January 3, 2000; and Tanya Carter, Kindergarten Aide, Wick Elementary School, Effective January 3, 2000.

Bills for Payment

1/00/6 Moved by Lambert supported by Woods that the Board approve the Bills for Payment as presented by Mr. Joel R. Carr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Industrial Technology Report

The Industrial Technology update was presented by Messrs. Kimbrough and Musham and Mesdames Satterlee and Wilkerson. They responded to questions posed by members of the Board of Education.

Class-size Report

Dr. Samuel B. La Monica, Director of Human Resources, discussed the analysis given to the Board of Education showing the reduction in class sizes, and also answered questions asked by members of the Board of Education.

Permission for Bus Bids

1/00/7 Moved by Lambert supported by Dick that the Board of Education authorize the Transportation Department to seek bids for eight (8) conventional buses, 1 wheelchair bus, and 2 minivans. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Communications and Expressions from the Public

Members of the audience voiced their concerns and posed questions to the Board of Education relative to the operation of the School District.

Items of Interest from the Superintendent

Dr. William M. Bedell, Superintendent, shared the following items of interest with members of the Board of Education: 1) Knife Incident - Merriman; 2) Article - Romulus in National School Board Journal; and 3) Holiday Tennis Camp.

Questions and/or Concerns of Board Members

Mrs. Debbie Dick asked if we have scheduled further negotiation sessions.

Mr. Don Morris and Mrs. Alfaye Woods have agreed to co-chair the Romulus Alumni Association.

Executive Session - Negotiations

1/00/8 Moved by Woods supported by Lambert that the Board convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations. Roll call vote showed: Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board convened in Executive Session at 7:21 P.M. and reconvened in Regular Session at 7:51 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

1/00/9 Moved by Berlinn supported by Woods that the Board meeting be adjourned. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth E. Berlinn, Secretary
Romulus Board of Education

RMS Students Recognized

Romulus Middle School teachers selected a total of 36 students to receive the school's "Student of the Month" award based on the youths' exceptional behavior and academic performance during the month of December.

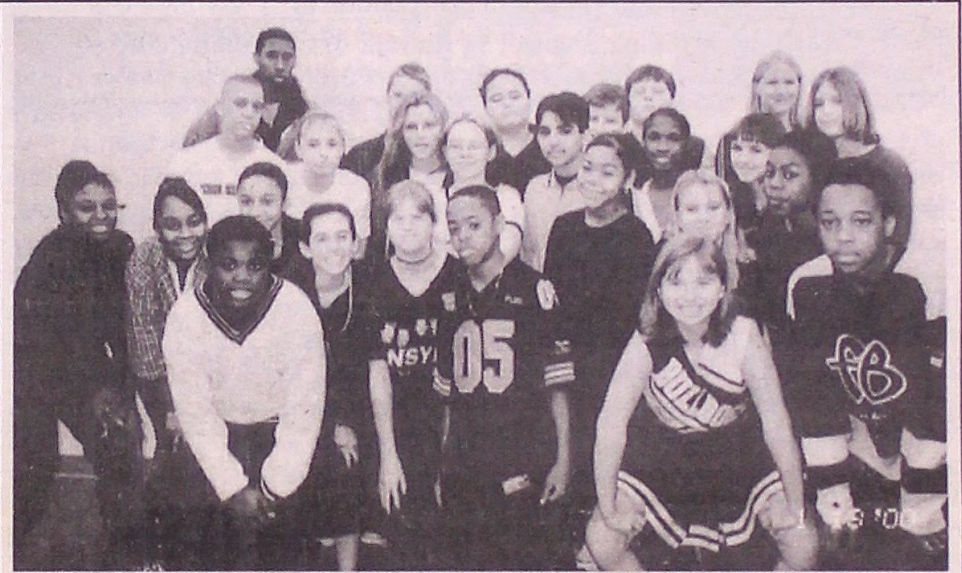
Students attending a brief ceremony in their honor received a certificate of achievement as well as a Romulus Middle School "Bulldogs" pencil and a snowboard wallet or photo wallet.

Parents in attendance were given a "Bulldogs" mug to recognize their support of the students.

Principal Ed Clark would like to acknowledge the achievement of the following students.

December Students of the Month - Romulus Middle School

Ummer Ahmad, Keaton Armstrong, John Ayers, Myles Bell, Jazmine Bennett, Natalie Blake, Lauren Block, Albert Bright, Teela Carroll, Chrystal Coleman, Carol Deaton, Steven Gratiot, Terry Harper, Paris Hawkins, Bryan Hoehing-Neeley, Jerad Kiser, Kristle Kowalcik, Stephon Lewis, Larnie Neal, Suzanne Nehila, Aaron Nelson, Amber Netter, Alanae Odom, Misty Pitel, Rick Porter, Eric Rister, Kristina Scott, Jessica Shelton, Adrian Simmons, Alicia Sims, Dwayne Starnes, Samantha Tilley, Cali Trevorow, Darius Williams, Danté Williams, and Jennifer Williams. □



Romulus Middle School's "Students of the Month" for December.

RHS Students Recognized

Romulus High School teachers selected a total of 55 students to receive December's "Student of the Month" award based on the youths' exceptional behavioral and academic performance.

Students attending a brief ceremony in their honor received a certificate of achievement and, thanks to the generosity of local sponsors, a \$50 U.S. savings bond.

RHS Assistant Principal Melvin Kimbrough would like to congratulate the following students on their achievement.

December Students of the Month - Romulus High School

Jarene Armstrong, Lakara Bailey, Benita Bell, Christina Bishop, Jennifer Bittenbender, Ryan Block, Nicole Bright, Taritonye Burutolu, Shawn Caldwell, Andrea Coate, Erin Conway, Kela Cotton, Mario Dawson, Christopher Deaton, Antonia Epps, Tracie Finley, Tia Garrett, Carly Gentile, James Glass, James Green, Steven Harper, Jeremy Hendricks, Brandon Hicks, Tiffany Hoch, Linsey Hoppe, Krystal Jackson, Scott Kennedy, Jason Konopa, Kei'untaina Lane, Dennis Lee, Rondra Lee, Jasmine Mark, Danielle McClue, Shanté McClure, Candice Montgomery, Shawna Pattenaude, Leslie Pitts, Frank

Rakes, Joseph Reed, Donald Richison, Alfred Riopelle, John Ryznar, Jamahl Scott, Na'eem Shareer, Melissa Smallwood, Clifford Smith, Neil Sneath, Nichole Starnes, Christopher Talley, Kevin Thomas (Athlete), Renia Thum, Joshua Trevarrow, Brandon Varga, Travis Whitehead, and Chianta Wyatt.

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Aztec Manufacturing Corp.; C & C Trailer Service; Chem Central; Dale Kennedy & Sons; Downriver Pest Control; Elkins Machine & Tool; Environ, Inc.; Form Flow, Inc.; Gandol; Graduate Services; Header Products; Rhonda Hennessey, D.D.S.; Highway Maintenance; Kiwanis Club of Michigan; Lear Segler; Art and Eva McDonald; Precision Hardware; Romulus Community Schools staff members (Dr. William Bedell, Joel Carr, Tom Dolan, Marjorie Fraley, Marilyn Hidenfelter, Henry James, Don Kobane, Richard Kruse, Dr. Samuel LaMonica, Richard Slate, and Maryann Tyrchniewicz); Romulus Flowers & Gifts; Romulus Progressive Club; Romulus Rotary Club; Kundan Sata, D.D.S.; Saw & Specialty Corp.; Stears True Value Hardware; Total Petroleum, Inc.; Trans-Overseas Corp.; and United Brass Manufacturers, Inc. □

Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Linda Norman, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator for the City of Romulus, and Melissa Morton, Manager of the Romulus Tower, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column. (For more information about events at the Romulus Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins, please call 734-942-6852.)

Happy Birthday!

Best wishes for a wonderful birthday to those of my Tower neighbors born in the month of February: Maggie Brent, Laura Chesno, Rickey Covertt, Bernice Davis, Grace Diller, Hepsie Frederick, Thelma Gibson, Thelma Griffin, Adeline Hoerl, Jacquale Meyers, Ruth Murphy, Ida Noble, James Plank, Shirley Vogler, and Madeline Yeary.

Free Tax Preparation

Now through April 12, volunteers from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) will be available (by appointment only) at the Romulus Senior Center each Wednesday from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. to assist low- and moderate-income Romulus seniors with the preparation of their Federal and State 1040 forms, as well as those for homestead property-tax, home-heating, and prescription forms.

A list of materials which must be brought to the appointment will be provided at the time of registration.

Note: Romulus City Treasurer Pam Kersey also offers free tax-preparation services for seniors on Wednesdays and Fridays. To make an appointment, call her office (734-942-7580).

Grandparent for a Day

The Romulus Senior Center is looking for volunteers who would like to make a difference in the lives of young children. Starting January 26 (from 1 to 3:30 p.m.), and continuing once a month thereafter, interested seniors will be traveling to a local classroom to interact with preschoolers. The basic job description: read a story, sing a song, or color a picture with new friends. No lifting or heavy work is required.

For more information, call Elaine: 734-641-7515.

Other Volunteer Positions Open

The Romulus Senior Center is always looking for friendly volunteers who would like to become more involved in the Center by helping to plan and execute its various programs.

To find out more about how you can give the priceless gift of caring, please contact Program Coordinator Linda Norman.

No-smoking Bowling League

According to Linda Norman, several senior citizens have indicated their interest in forming a no-smoking bowling league. Games would be played on either Tuesday or Wednesday mornings (about 9 or 9:30 a.m.). Anyone who would be interested in bowling on such a league should contact Charles Curley (734-941-1787) or the Center.

Pool-shooting Proposal

The Romulus Senior Center is also thinking about organizing a regular pool-playing group. Let Linda Norman know if you would be interested.

"Hawaii" Travel Show

Because the Senior Center is considering the possibility of arranging a group tour to the Hawaiian Islands, Program Coordinator Linda Norman has scheduled a "Hawaii Travel Show" speaker/slide presentation on Tuesday, February 8, beginning at 9:30 a.m. No sign-up is necessary.

Special Trips

Seniors interested in more information about these or other special trips that have been planned by the Romulus Senior Center should call Linda Norman at 734-942-6852.

- **Soaring Eagle Casino/Mt. Pleasant** (February 22; \$21);
- **Soaring Eagle Casino/Mt. Pleasant** (March 28; \$9);
- **Soaring Eagle Casino/Mt. Pleasant** (April 25; \$21);
- **Bay Mills/Kewadin Casinos** (July 20-21; \$129);
- **Soaring Eagle Casino/Show** (October 16; \$49); and
- **Golden Southwest Tour** (November 11-25; \$879; \$100 holds your seat).

A Fitness Resolution

If you're one of the many senior citizens who made a New Year's resolution to get more exercise, the Romulus Senior Center has a couple of programs that will help you with your goal.

The first – a once-a-week indoor walking program – provides transportation to the nearest Wayne County Community College campus for an hour of move-at-your-own-pace exercise. The van departs from the Center at 9 a.m. each Wednesday.

The second is a free toning/stretching/aerobic exercise class, which meets on Tuesdays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m.

The Center recommends that all who participate in these programs wear comfortable clothing, and urges anyone unused to physical exertion to consult a physician before beginning. □

CAN YOU GUESS WHO?

You might not have known our "mystery woman" when this picture was taken, but her adult face is familiar to many people in the City of Romulus.

To learn her identity, anagram (rearrange) each "key word" below – WITH THE ADDITION OF ONE LETTER – to answer the corresponding clue, and fill in the blanks accordingly.

If the puzzle is done correctly, the added letters, read from top to bottom, will spell out the name of this prominent local citizen.



ADD THE LETTER ... TO THE LETTERS IN ... TO GET

- ___ ... LOCATE ... site of King Arthur's court _____
- ___ ... IREFUL ... one who is not successful _____
- ___ ... ATONES ... Benedict Arnold's offense _____
- ___ ... MICA ... David Copperfield's forte _____
- ___ ... CONED ... a minister's layman assistant _____
- ___ ... ANALOG ... oat/fruit/nut mixture _____
- ___ ... TORCH ... Trojan prince killed by Achilles _____
- ___ ... ANISETTE ... without a will _____
- ___ ... PATEN ... Mercury, for instance _____
- ___ ... TABLED ... overdue; tardy _____
- ___ ... ALDER ... Jacob's ____ (1990 Tim Robbins film) _____
- ___ ... BUSED ... soften; tone down _____
- ___ ... SHINE ... nooks and crannies _____

For solution, see page 11

YOU'LL FIND IT IN "EMERGENCY"

How many words of four or more letters can you form using only the letters found in EMERGENCY? A letter can be used more than once only if it appears more than once. Proper nouns, obsolete and archaic words, slang and informal words, poetic words, hyphenated words, contractions, alternate spellings, and foreign words are not permitted.

Our list of 15 words can be found on page 11

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Happy Birthday

Quinda Azia Christopher

Happy birthday (February 6) to Quinda Azia Christopher!

Your family loves you very much, and hopes that this day will be special.

Lots of hugs and kisses from your mother (Bridgett Anderson), grandparents (Tommie and Beverly Williams), godmother (Nettie Whitner), and aunt (Georgia Ware). □



Obituary

Eugene E. Senart

Eugene E. Senart of Taylor, Michigan, died on Thursday, December 16, 1999, at the age of 71. The United States Navy retiree was born in Lincoln Park, Michigan, on June 17, 1928.

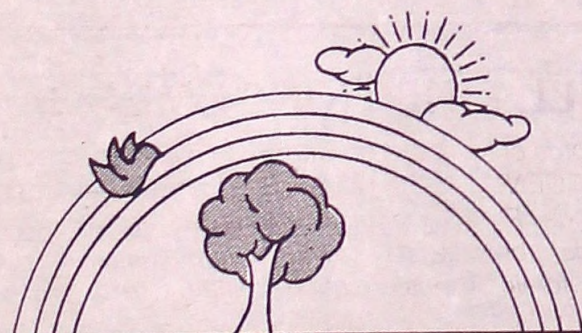
He is survived by two sons, Ned and David Senart; one daughter, Carol Senart; two brothers, Bud and John Senart; and three sisters, Mrs. Clayton (Louise) Hubbartt, Mrs. Norman (Nan)

Meyer, and Mrs. Merlin (Janet) Lemmon. He was predeceased by his wife, Helen; one son, Roger; and one brother, Mickey.

A funeral service was held on Sunday, December 19, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus, MI), with the Reverend William Kren (Community United Methodist Church, Romulus, MI) officiating. Interment was at Fort Custer National Cemetery (Augusta, MI).

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Answers

answers to puzzles from page 10
CAN YOU GUESS WHO?

Camelot, failure, treason, magic,
deacon, granola, Hector,
intestate, planet, belated, Ladder,
subdue, niches

*"(City of Romulus Emergency
Management Coordinator)
Margaret Leduc"*

YOU'LL FIND IT IN . . .

gene, germ, mere, emcee,
emery, enemy, genre, green,
mercy, merge, emerge, energy,
renege, regency, mergence

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